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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

(for the period from 10 June 2005 to 9 December 2005)

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the last six months pursuant to the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974 and extended in subsequent resolutions, most recently resolution 1605 (2005) of 17 June 2005.

II. Situation in the area and activities of the Force

2. During the period under review, the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was maintained and the area of operations of UNDOF remained generally quiet, except in the Shab'a farms area (Area 6), which experienced activity originating from the area of operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), described in my reports on UNIFIL.

3. UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that military forces of either party were excluded from it. The Force also carried out fortnightly inspections of equipment and force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. As in the past, both sides denied inspection teams access to some of their positions and imposed some restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement. In addition, Israeli national customs officials continued to operate at the Israel Defense Forces post at the UNDOF crossing gate between the Israeli-occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

4. The Force continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the passage of persons through the area of separation. During the last six months, UNDOF assisted in the crossing of 480 students and 488 religious pilgrims and provided protection at one wedding. UNDOF also supervised the handover of a Syrian boy who had crossed the ceasefire line. Within the means available, medical treatment was provided to the local population on request.

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5. In the area of operation, especially in the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. Owing to the age of the mines and their deteriorating explosives, this threat has increased. UNDOF continued to carry out operational mine clearance. Upon the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, UNDOF supervised mine clearance work carried out by a civilian Syrian mine clearance company in two villages in the area of separation. UNDOF remained available to support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in activities to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

6. The Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military authorities of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides generally cooperated with the Force in the execution of its tasks.

7. As at 5 December 2005, UNDOF was comprised of 1,047 troops from Austria (380), Canada (185), Japan (30), Nepal (2), Poland (355) and Slovakia (95). A total of 19 National Support Elements were employed by Canada (4) and Japan (15). In addition, 79 military observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assisted the Force in carrying out its tasks. All major components of the three-year programme to modernize UNDOF facilities are in the closing stages. A map showing the deployment of the Force is attached to the present report.

III. Financial aspects

8. By its resolution 59/306, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $41.5 million, equivalent to $3.5 million per month, for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 December 2005, as recommended in paragraph 13 below, the cost of maintaining the Force will be limited to the amounts approved by the Assembly.

9. As at 28 November 2005, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNDOF special account for the period from the inception of the Force to 31 October 2005 amounted to $22.7 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $2,217 million.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

10. The Security Council, while deciding in its resolution 1605 (2005) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, until 31 December 2005, also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately resolution 338 (1973) and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and, in particular, the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973) were dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East (A/60/258), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 59/32 and 59/33.

V. Observations

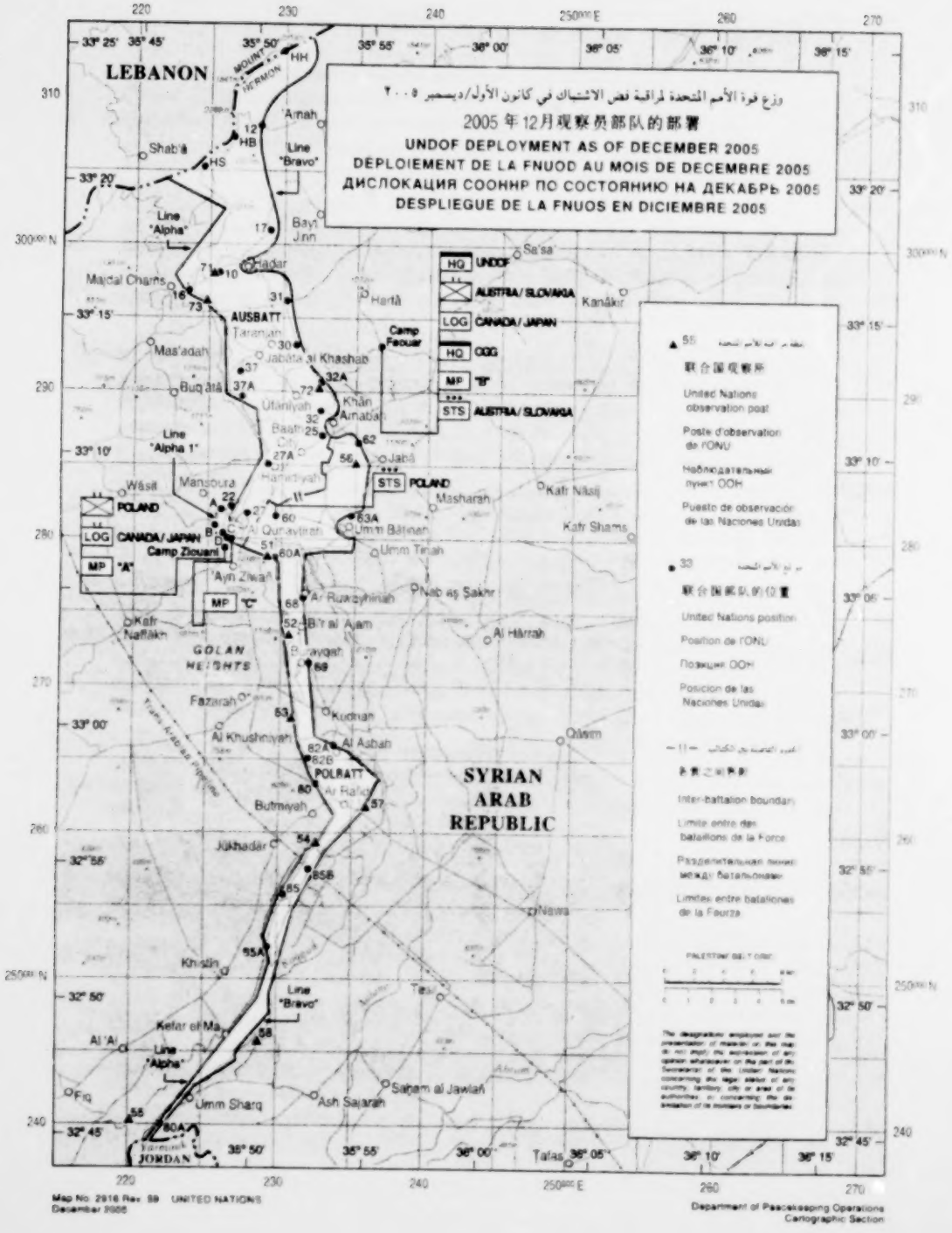
11. The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the ceasefire called for by the Security Council and the agreement on disengagement between Syrian and Israeli forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its function effectively, with the cooperation of the parties.

12. Nevertheless, the situation in the Middle East is very tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects with a view to arriving at a just an durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

13. Under the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 30 June 2006. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

14. In making this recommendation, I must draw attention to the shortfall in the funding of the Force. At present, unpaid assessments amount to some $22.7 million. The sum represents money owed to the Member States that contribute the troops who make up the Force. I appeal to all Member States to pay their assessments promptly and in full and to clear all remaining arrears.

15. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Lieutenant General Bala Nanda Sharma and to the men and women serving with UNDOF. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those that provide the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force.


وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لمراقبة فض الاشتباك في كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٥
2005 年12月观察员部队的部署
UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF DECEMBER 2005
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE DECEMBRE 2005
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО СОСТОЯНИЮ НА ДЕКАБРЬ 2005
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN DICIEMBRE 2005
LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
JORDAN
GOLAN HEIGHTS
HQ UNDOF
AUSTRIA/ SLOVAKIA
LOG CANADA/ JAPAN
HQ COG
MP "B"
STS AUSTRIA/ SLOVAKIA
STS POLAND
POLAT
POLAND
LOG CANADA/ JAPAN
Camp Ziouani
MP "A"
MP "C"
AUSBATT
Camp Faouar
Line "Alpha"
Line "Alpha 1"
Line "Bravo"
United Nations observation post
Poste d'observation de l'ONU
Наблюдательный пункт ООН
Puesto de observación de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations position
Position de l'ONU
Позиция ООН
Posición de las Naciones Unidas
Inter-battalion boundary
Limite entre des bataillons de la Force
Разделительная линия между батальонами
Limites entre batallones de la Fuerza
Hadar
Ghajar
Majdal Chams
Mas'adah
Buq'ata
Wasit
Mansoura
'Ayn Ziwan
Kafr Naffakh
Fazarah
Al Khushniyah
Butmayah
Jukhadar
Khisfin
Ketar el Ma
Al 'Al
Fiq
Umm Sharq
Ash Sa'arah
Saham al Jawlan
Tafas
Hamidiyah
Jabata al Khashab
Al Qunaytirah
Umm Batnah
Umm Tinah
Ar Ruwayhinah
Nab aş Şakhr
Kafr Shams
Masharah
Kafr Nasij
Al Harrah
Qasim
Nawa
Sa'sa'
Hartà
Kanâkir
Bayt Jinn
'Arnah
Shab'a
Khirbat al Ahmar
Jabata al Khashab
Khan Arnabah
Utaniyah
Basir
Jabá
Hamidiyah
Al Asbah
Kudnah
Al Aşbah
Ar Rafid
Tuyan Kabba Highway
Mount Hermon
HH
HB
HS
Line "Bravo"
Camp Faouar
Tafas
Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section
Map No. 2916 Rev. 59 UNITED NATIONS
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